

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing and is filed in response to the Office Action dated May 8, 2006 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10 and 11 and objected to claim 9 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants respectfully point out that new claims 12-17 were added in the Amendment filed February 16, 2006.

Claims 1-3, 7-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Ikeshoji et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,479) in view of *Abe et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,086,434).

*Ikeshoji et al.* appears to disclose an image processing method for executing operation steps of repairing a defect of a document and changing a background image in a short time and furthermore executing those operation steps automatically and a recording medium for storing them. (Column 1, lines 34-38).

Thus, *Ikeshoji et al.* merely discloses repairing a defect of a document and changing a background image. Nothing *Ikeshoji et al.* shows, teaches or suggests preprocessing for optical character recognition as claimed in claims 1-3 and 7. Rather, *Ikeshoji et al.* merely discloses repairing a defect of a document and changing a background image.

*Abe et al.* appears to disclose a process and apparatus for transmitting mixed data (column 1, line 11). Data of an original text is subjected to character recognition and the recognized characters are transmitted as code blocks, while unrecognized characters are transmitted as bit image blocks (column 7, lines 46-61).

Thus, *Abe et al.* merely discloses character recognition. Nothing in *Abe et al.* shows, teaches or suggests preprocessing for optical character recognition as claimed in claims 1-3 and 7. Rather, *Abe et al.* merely discloses character recognition.

Since neither *Ikeshoji et al.* or *Abe et al.* show, teach or suggest preprocessing for optical character recognition as claimed in claims 1-3 and 7, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 8 and 10 depend from claim 7 and recite additional features. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 10 would not have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103 over *Ikeshoji et al.* and *Abe et al.* at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Ikeshoji et al.* in view of *Abe et al.*

Claim 10 depends from claim 7 and recites additional features. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 would not have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103 over *Ikeshoji et al.* in view of *Abe et al.* at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Ikeshoji et al.* in view of *Abe et al.* and further in view of *Melen* (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,423).

As discussed above, nothing in *Ikeshoji et al.* or *Abe et al.* show, teach or suggest preprocessing for optical character recognition as claimed in claim 4.

*Melen* appears to disclose optical character recognition and more particularly determining an orientation of a scanned page (column 1, lines 7-9).

Thus, *Melen* merely discloses determining the orientation of a scanned page. Nothing in *Melen* shows, teaches or suggests preprocessing for optical character recognition as claimed in claim 4.

Since nothing in *Ikeshoji et al.*, *Abe et al.* and *Melen* show, teach or suggest the primary features as claimed in claim 4, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable under *Ikeshoji et al.*, *Abe et al.* and *Melen* and further in view of *Abe et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,121). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Ikeshoji et al.*, *Abe et al.*, and *Melen* and further in view of *Koakutsu et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,459). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Ikeshoji et al.* and *Abe et al.* and further in view of *Johnson* (U.S. Patent No. 5,212,739).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

As discussed above, since the combination of the primary references does not show, teach or suggest the primary features as claimed in claims 1-4 and 7, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the primary references with the

secondary references will not overcome the deficiencies of the primary references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 5, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Since objected to claim 9 depends from allowable claims, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the objection thereto.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-17 added in the Amendment filed February 16, 2006 are also in condition for allowance.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

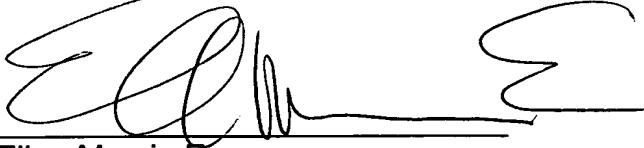
In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge  
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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